NEZ Impacts Estimator

Problem Statement: Neighborhood Housing Service Department (NHSD) staff do not have an effective way to utilize objective data to determine where to locate Neighborhood Empowerment Zones (NEZ) or how to track their intended impact; leading to decisions based on assumptions. Building a data visualization tool will help NHSD staff designate NEZs, evaluate NEZ policies, and visually communicate the effects to City Council and the public.

Objective: Build an interactive mapping tool called the NEZ Impacts Estimator to help the City of San Antonio NHSD staff use data to propose, track, and adjust the effects of Neighborhood Empowerment Zones (NEZs).

Hypothesis: We hypothesize that the convergence of the data and creation of a visual tool will:
1) Allow connections to be made between lived experiences and San Antonio's development.
2) Allow City staff to make evidence-based decisions for policies effecting distressed communities.
3) Create lessons learned around data informed decision making to inform Citywide efforts.

Address City Manager Priorities:
- <u>Data Driven Decision-Making</u> – Visualizes growth trends and socioeconomic conditions within Bexar County
- <u>Customer Service</u> – Assesses potential impact of NEZ policy incentives

Research Questions:

1	How have locational patterns of residential and commercial development changed since 1970 in Bexar County, with a focus on proposed NEZs?
2	What is the relationship between historical development trends and socioeconomic conditions in Bexar County, with a focus on proposed NEZs?
3	What are the trends and patterns of development and business activity, code violations, crime incidents, and neighborhood conditions prior to implementation in NEZs?
4	How do these trends and patterns change after implementation of NEZs?

Approach:
1) <u>Data</u>: combine data from UTSA's San Antonio 360 & Distressed Community Index projects
2) <u>Visual Tool</u>: build visual tool(s) that helps NHSD evaluate growth and policy effects
3) <u>Pilot</u>: implement the tools into everyday operations and policy evaluation
4) <u>Case Study</u>: monitor all three phases and document wins, drawbacks, barriers, lessons learned

Roles & Responsibilities:

	Internal	External
Executive Champion	Ian Benavidez (NHSD)	
R&D League Facilitator	Kate Kinnison (Innovation)	Shawn Farrell (UTSA)
Principal Investigator(s)	Kristen Flores (NHSD)	Ian Caine (UTSA)
Technical	Kristin Flores (NHSD)	Rebecca Walter (UW) Albert Han (UTSA) CI:Now
Visualization	Kristin Flores (NHSD)	Mark Robinson (UTSA)

Project Plan:
- Collect existing data, begin graphic prototypes, test online prototypes
- Utilize NEZs to construct and test online tool
- Review, evaluate, and revise online tool
- Deliver online pilot version of NEZ Impacts Estimator to NHSD